



The Mosley Academy

Grammar Glossary		
Term	Definition	Example
Verb	Names an action	Laugh, ate, is, be
Adjective	Gives more info about a noun (normally goes before the noun)	Happy, beautiful, clumsy
Noun	Names a person or thing	Bird, apple, table
Common noun	A noun that refers to people or things in general	Dog, tree, bridge, chair
Proper noun	A noun that identifies a particular person, place or thing (begins with a capital letter)	James, Africa, Friday
Concrete noun	A noun that refers to people and things that exist physically and can be seen, touched, smelled, heard or tasted	Pencil, banana, rain, beach
Abstract noun	A noun that refer to ideas, qualities or conditions - cannot be seen or touched	Danger, happiness, friendship
Collective nouns	Refer to groups of people or things	Crowd, family, team
Pronoun	Can be used instead of a noun. Avoids repetition	It, he
Possessive pronouns	Tell you who or what owns a noun	His, her
Relative pronouns	Introduce more information about the noun	Who, whom, whose, which, what
Conjunction	Links words or groups of words Co-ordinating = joins words/groups of words of equal importance Subordinating = joins words/groups of words of unequal importance	Co-ordinating: and, nor, but, or, yet, so Subordinating: if, while, because, although, after, since
Adverb	Gives more info about a verb, adjective or other adverb. Also tells you when, where and how often something happens	Twice, noisily, eagerly, later
Preposition	Shows how things are related (position, time it happened, way in which it is done). Can link nouns and pronouns to other words in a sentence.	Up, on, into, against, through
Determiner	Goes in front of a noun and its adjectives to tell you what or how many the sentence is about (the, an and a are articles - a type of determiner)	The, one, a, this,
Auxiliary verbs (helping)	Used with main verbs to show when something has happened	I am eating, I do like, I have eaten
Modal verbs	Auxiliary verbs which express possibility or wanting, as well as the future	Will, would, can, could, may, might, shall, should
Sentence	Begins with a capital letter, ends with a full stop, exclamation mark or question mark, all have a verb, consist of one or more clauses	

Simple sentence	One main clause	The bird ate the apple
Compound sentences	Two or more main clause joined by conjunctions	The bird felt hungry so it ate the apple.
Complex sentence	A main clause and one or more subordinate clauses	Although it had already eaten, the bird ate another apple.
Phrase	A group of words which makes sense, does not contain a verb, acts as one unit but is not a sentence on its own	The green bird
Noun phrase	2 or more words that act like a noun. Expanded noun phrases can describe and give complicated information clearly	NP: tiny seed ENP: ball that bounced over the fence
Adjectival phrase	Group of words that act as an adjective	Very greedy, really keen
Prepositional phrase	A preposition plus the noun that follows it	Behind the tree
Adverbial phrase	Built around an adverb by adding words before or after	As fast as possible, very slowly
Main clause	Group of words that can be used as a complete sentence. All clauses have a verb.	The green bird pecked an apple
Subordinate clause	Helps give meaning to the main clause but cannot exist on its own as a sentence	<u>Although it was only early afternoon</u> , the city was overcast and smog spread overhead.
Relative clause	A type of subordinate clause. Connected to the main clause by words like that, which, whom, whose	I enjoyed the film <u>that we saw last night.</u>
Adverbial	A word or phrase which gives you information about the verb as adverbs often do, but which is not necessarily an adverb. Tells you about time, place, manner or number	The dog slept <u>under the table.</u> The cat sleeps <u>during the day.</u>
Fronted adverbials	Adverbials which come at the beginning of a sentence and are usually followed by a comma	<u>After some time</u> , the scenery changed to denser forests.
Subject (of a sentence)	The noun just before the verb, often the person or thing that does the action	The <u>bird</u> pecked the apple.
Object (of a sentence)	Sometimes sentences have an object - who or what is acted on by the verb.	The bird pecked the <u>apple.</u>
Complement (of a sentence)	Sometime sentence have a complement - description of the subject following the verb	The bird was <u>hungry.</u>
Active voice (active verbs)	The sentence subject is doing the action	The little girl caught the ball. The bird ate the apple.
Passive voice (passive verbs)	The sentence subject is being acted on	The ball was caught. The bird was eaten by the bird.